

# Sheila Klinker

State Representative

District 27



How To Reach  
Representative

***Sheila J. Klinker***

**RESIDENCE**

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**ANSWER THE  
QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE**

[www.state.in.us/R27](http://www.state.in.us/R27)

Fall, 1999

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly met for an extended Organization Day in mid-November. We considered a package of bills that week, including an economic development package that would benefit many Hoosiers throughout the state.

The 2000 session is a "short" session, meaning we will begin session January 10 and finish before March 15. We will meet for no more than 30 days during the short session.

Short sessions have two notable features. First, each Representative may file only five pieces of legislation. This forces us to prioritize our legislative goals. Second, there are generally no budgetary or fiscal issues addressed during the short session. The budget is reserved for the long session when we have more time to complete this important task. However, we are hoping to open the budget this session only to consider legislation that will decrease the impact of proposed property tax increases. Our goal is to protect homeowners by easing the tax shift caused by reassessment.

Inside this newsletter is my legislative questionnaire. The questions will provide some details about the topics that may be brought before the legislature. Your opinion is valuable to me as I consider how I will vote.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for change in your state government, please contact me at 1-800-382-9842.



## ***2000 Page Program***

Serving as a page during the 2000 session allows any child age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a firsthand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as a page and will spend the entire day at the Statehouse.

Interested students should send me their name, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number, school and two different dates when the student could come to the Statehouse between January 10 and February 29, 2000.

Please remember session is short and places fill up fast, so apply as soon as possible.

*Our mission is to create an environment for Indiana's youth that is conducive to both fun and learning, and which will stimulate student interest in government and community involvement. To that end, we plan to educate students regarding legislative processes; to give students an opportunity to meet their community leaders; to encourage student involvement in the community; and to introduce students to other students around the state.*

# 1999 survey results

*I decided to repeat last year's survey results. Many thanks again for taking your valuable time and effort to respond.*

1. During the 1999 legislative session, the Indiana General Assembly will pass a new biennial state budget. What should our priorities for funding be?
  - A. Public education -- 30%
  - B. Tax relief for all Hoosiers -- 34%
  - C. Infrastructure improvements -- 7%
  - D. Health care for older Hoosiers -- 15%
  - E. Higher education -- 5%
  - F. Reducing the unfunded liability in state-operated pension funds. -- 10%
2. If we can reduce any tax in Indiana, where would you like the reduction to take place?
  - A. Individual income tax -- 36%
  - B. Corporate income tax -- 3%
  - C. Property taxes for homeowners and farmers -- 48%
  - D. Property taxes for businesses-- 3%
  - E. Sales tax -- 6%
  - F. Business inventory tax -- 4%
3. If the legislature restructures Indiana's tax code during the 1999 session, what sort of restructuring do you prefer?
  - A. Property tax relief only -- 24%
  - B. Sales tax relief only -- 3%
  - C. Income tax relief only -- 10%
  - D. A combination of the above that assures equity for as many taxpayers as possible -- 63%
4. Should the State of Indiana provide funding to school corporations that choose to offer a full day of kindergarten?  
Yes -- 63%                      No -- 37%
5. Should the state change the cutoff date for kindergarten enrollment, enabling younger children to begin attending school?  
Yes -- 43%                      No -- 57%
6. How should the State of Indiana fund textbook rental fees now paid by parents of students?  
A. Full--45%    B. Half --28%    C. None -- 27%
7. Do you believe Indiana should have a "hate crime" law that provides penalties for offenders who commit crimes against a person because of their race, ethnic background, religious affiliation, disability, gender or sexual orientation?  
Yes -- 56%                      No -- 44%
8. Should state government increase funding for CHOICE, which allows senior citizens and the disabled to receive health care services in their homes?  
Yes -- 92%                      No -- 8%
9. Do you support the abolition of the Indiana Secretary of State's office?  
Yes -- 44%                      No -- 56%

## Financial assistance for college

Attending college is a key factor for later career success. Indiana's future depends on good students who graduate from college. Students interested in attending college may be eligible for several sources of additional funding.

- *Twenty-First Century Scholars* helps Indiana families afford a college education for their children. To apply for the program, the student must be an Indiana resident, be enrolled in the 8th grade at a public or accredited private school, and be eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under the national school lunch program or free or reduced textbooks under the textbook assistance program.

Students must "Step up to the Pledge" by committing to: (1) graduate from an Indiana high school, (2) achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, (3) not use drugs or alcohol or commit any crime, and (4) apply for college admission and financial aid as a senior in high school. For more information, call 1-800-592-2076.

- *Scholarships Available* - The State of Indiana also offers several scholarships, including the *Indiana Higher Education Grant*, the *Hoosier Scholarship Award*, the *Minority Teacher Scholarship* and the *Nursing Scholarship*. For more information on these scholarships, please contact the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana at 1-317-232-2350.

- *Loans and Grants* - The U.S. government also assists students in finding funds for college. Grants (which do not have to be repaid) and loans (which do have to be repaid) are available for eligible students. The programs include Stafford Loans, Pell Grants, PLUS Loans, the Work-Study Program and Perkins Loans. Students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Forms are available in high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices or by contacting the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-4FED-AID.

# 2000 Legislative Survey

## Questions

1. Should the Legislature delay the implementation of new property assessment guidelines created by the State Board of Tax Commissioners that will shift the property tax burden to homeowners when they take effect in 2000?
2. Do you believe inducements like enterprise zones and tax abatements are an effective use of tax dollars to spur economic development?
3. Should the State of Indiana eliminate the ISTEP program for testing students, and come up with another method of measuring progress in the classroom?
4. Should the State of Indiana provide funding to school corporations that choose to offer a full day of kindergarten?
5. In recent years, Illinois and Ohio have deregulated electric service. Do you believe Indiana should follow suit?
6. Should banks and insurance companies receive tax breaks to encourage them to keep their headquarters in the State of Indiana?
7. Do you favor passage of legislation that increases penalties against people who commit crimes against someone solely because of race or sexual orientation?
8. Do you believe that people have the right to hold their health maintenance organizations (HMOs) legally responsible for the health care decisions they make?
9. Do you believe that patients should be able to receive drugs prescribed by their doctors without approval from their HMOs?
10. Should changes be made in state law that would allow Indiana riverboats to compete with those in surrounding states?

## Responses

	<i>Respondent 1</i>		<i>Respondent 2</i>	
1.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

## Your Comments

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Rep. Sheila Klinker

200 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

## ***Educating Indiana's children***

Did you know that more than 20 percent of adults read at or below a fifth grade level – far below the level needed to earn a living wage? Forty-three percent of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty. An inability to read has been linked to a multitude of social problems, including crime and teen pregnancy.

The Indiana General Assembly has attempted to help by appropriating \$8 million in funding over the next two years for early intervention (K-3) reading programs. As someone who has continually worked toward educating our children, I am pleased that reading has received so much attention. Four years ago I authored a bill providing funding for Early Reading Intervention programs. The General Assembly also provided \$6 million to replace old and worn school library books and materials. As well, the Indiana General Assembly appropriated \$28 million for Adult Education.

If you know of anyone who would like to obtain a GED, needs reading help for his or her child, needs reading help for themselves, wants to learn English as a Second Language, wants to improve their employment options or who wants to go from welfare to work, contact the Literacy Helpline at 1-800-267-9029. The helpline is part of the Indiana Literacy Foundation.

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Indiana House of  
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